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COUNTRY: Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC: Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES

REMARKS

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1. The following rail shipments, coming from Jueterbog, arrived at the Pioneer Kaserne, Rosslau-Weinsdorf (M 52/E 17), between 25 April and 17 May 1950: 44 boxcars on 25 April, 10 boxcars on 29 April, 12 boxcars on 2 May and 10 boxcars on 5 May. All of the boxcars were occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered, black epaulets. Those arriving 25 April wore tank insignia. An increase has been observed in the number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets at the post. (1)

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2. [REDACTED]
3. A train carrying 13 to 19 T34 and JS tanks left Rosslau-Weinsdorf toward Weimar and Berlin every morning between 28 April and 9 May 1950. The trains heading toward Weimar were allegedly bound for Buchenwald (F-3) and those toward Berlin were allegedly rerouted in Seddin (F-2). Trains of flatcars with eight tanks and four to six sealed boxcars left Rosslau-Weinsdorf toward Weimar-Buchenwald between 10 and 12 May 1950 at a rate of one per day.

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4. The Pioneer Kaserne, Rosslau-Weinsdorf, was occupied by only a rear detail on 18 May 1950. Soldiers were seen wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets; red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank insignia; and black-bordered black epaulets, some with anchor insignia. According to a mechanic about 70 trucks were still in the barracks.

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25X1C 5. An engineer unit with [REDACTED] went into a bivouac area on the Elbe River near Schlossgarten on 15 May 1950. It was engaged in daily bridge construction and ferrying exercises. (4)

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6. A convoy of 28 motor vehicles, led by a lieutenant colonel riding in passenger car [REDACTED] moved from Rossau toward Zerbst at about 10:30 a.m. on 5 May 1950. The convoy consisted of trucks towing six 37-mm AA guns, including trucks [REDACTED] and mounting eight trucks [REDACTED] and mounting heavy machine guns, three personnel carriers, and several trucks loaded with billeting equipment. 25X1C 25X1C

7. Ninety soldiers with full pack arrived aboard a passenger train from Dessau on 6 May 1950 and marched to Camp Meinsdorf. Five small groups of soldiers with full pack got off a train from Dessau and marched to Camp Meinsdorf on 7 May 1950. (5)

8. Engineer troops with motor vehicles [REDACTED] practiced in the improvised water training area between the Elbe and Mulde Rivers on 11 May 1950. 25X1C

9. The former hospital near the main railroad station in Dessau was occupied by about two companies of Kommandatura troops wearing black-bordered red epaulets. The units furnished sentries and patrols for duty at the Dessau military post. (6) Soviet dependents vacated most of the houses west of the hospital and the houses were returned to the Germans.

10. Civilians occupied the Friedrich Kaserne in the northern sector of Dessau, the Enke Kaserne, previously called Artillerie Kaserne, in Ziebeck, a NW suburb of Dessau, and the Hindenburg Kaserne in the western sector of Dessau. (7)

11. The MVD quarters in Georgengarten, about 500 meters NW of the main railroad station, were occupied by a unit of about company strength. 25X1C

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Comments.

(1) The arrival of about 2,000 troops in 79 boxcars is noteworthy and is more than the average number of replacements reported to arrive at other military posts in the spring of 1950. The report indicates that the troops came from Jueterbog where possibly a replacement distributing point for units of the Third Gds Mecz Army is located, as was presumed in 1949.

(2)

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(3) Two reports on the departure of units of the 7th Gds Tank Div in Rossau to the north are available. One stated that twelve trains carrying troops and tanks left Rossau for Jaenickendorf, which is one of the detraining stations for the Werder-Markendorf troop training grounds, between 17 and 24 April 1950. [REDACTED] The other stated that a north-bound train carrying tanks passed through Wittenberg. [REDACTED] This report is the first to state that units of the 7th Gds Tank Div moved to an unidentified destination via Seddin and to Weimar-Buchenwald. 25X1A

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It appears possible, however, that some of the units may have gone to Werder-Markendorf via Seddin. On the other hand, there are no indications that elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div, [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] went to the Weimar area. 25X1A

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- (4) The information confirms a previous report that the Rosslau Pionier Kaserne was only lightly occupied in the second half of April 1950. It was said that the troops were not to return to their quarters before early October 1950. [REDACTED] 25X1A
- (5) The information indicates that, in addition to the troops which arrived during the period from 25 April to 5 May 1950, other shipments of replacements arrived later.
- (6) The presence of these troops was not previously known.
- (7) The Friedrich Kaserne housed civilians in the summer of 1949. The Enke Kaserne was reported for the first time to be occupied by civilians. An operational group of the LGB has been assumed to be in the Hindenburg Kaserne.

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